

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 5, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 2 and 4 were canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer and the applicants are filing a divisional application directed thereto of even date herewith. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 3 are pending in this application and are submitted for consideration.

Applicants acknowledge that the Office found that claims 1 and 3 are allowable. The office, however, has maintained the rejection of claim 2 for alleged anticipation by Miyagawa, and rejected claim 4 as allegedly obvious over Miyagawa.

Without acquiescence to the position of the Office in these rejections, applicants have cancelled claims 2 and 4, without prejudice or disclaimer. The cancellation made herein does not acquiesce to the examiner's rejections, but is solely to advance the case towards allowance. As noted, applicants are filing a divisional application for the cancelled claims.

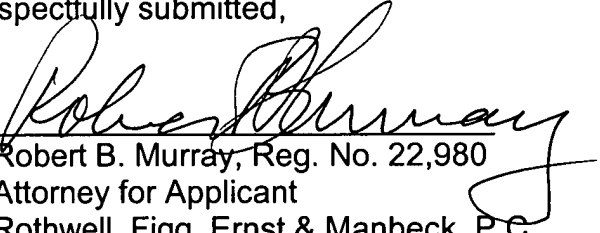
In view of the above amendment, applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding rejections become moot, and therefore withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1 and 3 are warranted.

If for any reason the Office determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Office contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Robert B. Murray, Reg. No. 22,980

Attorney for Applicant

Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck, P.C.

Suite 800, 1425 K Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20005

Telephone: (202) 783-6040

Facsimile: (202) 783-6031